

WHIP 10 - PRESCRIBED BURNING

FOTG Practice Code 338

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to reduce grass density and encourage forbs and legumes to regenerate for wildlife food.

B. PROGRAM POLICY

Apply this practice to native warm season grasslands and idle grassy areas where hard-seeded native forbs may respond.

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

D. COST-SHARE POLICY

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). This practice shall be cost shared at a rate to meet the minimal needs of the NRCS WHDP.

Eligible Components:

Prescribed Burning
Disking
Labor
Eligible Seed
Seedbed Preparation
Seeding
Temporary Cover
Firebreak

The disking component of this practice shall meet the requirements of the WHIP 9 practice (Strip Disking).

Cost share shall be applicable for conducting prescribed burns for all scheduled treatments in the WHIP Contract under the limitation that a prescribed burn of the same acreage shall not be more frequent than once every three years during the length of the Contract.

Cost share is authorized only for the initial establishment of a permanent green firebreak. Cost share is **NOT AUTHORIZED** for the establishment of a green firebreak around fields

smaller than two acres.

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (a) determined needed until required seeds or plant stock is available; (b) needed because normal planting period for the species has passed and erosion problems may occur; (c) needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue that will not allow establishment of cover immediately.

E. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for this practice:

1. The burned area shall not be grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the Long-Term Contract.
2. Prescribed burns shall be done outside the primary nesting season of April 15 to August 15. Prescribed burns shall be restricted to a period between December 1 and April 15.
3. No more than one-third of the contract acres established to warm season grasses or natural vegetation may be burned in any given year. Areas burned may not be burned again the following two years. Prescribed burns will be carried out according to the Tennessee Division of Forestry guidelines. Landowners are required to obtain a burning permit from the Tennessee Division of Forestry, as required, and must follow all other applicable Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state, or local restrictions. Landowners are responsible for obtaining a qualified burn team.
4. A current soil test is required for all permanent, herbaceous plantings.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resources and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations when establishing this practice. A TN-CPA-25 must be completed for each WHDP.

G. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

This practice shall be maintained without additional federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice. Cost share shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

1. Participant destroys the cover or structure during its lifespan; or
2. Cover fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

H. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

I. SPECIFICATIONS

Planned Widths	Green firebreaks shall have a minimum width of 20 feet, not to exceed a maximum of 50 feet.
Approved Cover	Approved plant materials are listed below. Substitutions may be allowed subject to prior approval by the WHIP Program Leader or State Biologist.
Requirements	A current soil test is required for all permanent, herbaceous plantings.
Management	Mowing to reduce old growth of green firebreaks is permissible. Haying of green firebreaks is allowed in the haying season prior to the scheduled burn.
Seedbed	For conventional plantings, a firm seedbed is recommended. It should be prepared by plowing and disking (or harrowing) and allowed to settle.

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
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Ladino Clover	4.0 lbs.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Red Clover	5.0 lbs.	Aug. 15-Oct. 1
Winter Wheat (Temporary Cover)	25.0 lbs.	